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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Rumors to the effect that Minister President Otto Grotewohl and Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger were to be dismissed in the fall of 1951 were brought to Dertinger's attention about the first of August. Dertinger's comment was that he was aware that a number of people, including his deputy Anton Ackermann, were intriguing against him. He said he could not understand their motives, but believed that the campaign was directed by the Central Committee of the SED. A friend suggested that the reason for the SED's hostility was the failure of the plebiscite against West German remilitarization and of the agitation for all-German conversations. Dertinger replied, "I cannot accomplish those jobs all by myself. Ulbricht had as much to do with the campaign as I did. Anyway, the Russians will not permit the SED to dismiss me yet."
2. Dertinger mentioned that at the session of the Kleine Kommission of the Foreign Ministry on 30 July, the main topic of discussion was the Evangelical Church Convention held in Berlin in the middle of July. At this session it was admitted that the Popular Front movement, sponsored by the SED, for the unification of Germany had failed, but some hopes were expressed that union could be achieved through the churches. Dertinger said the Russians were very much impressed with the convention as pointing the way to a possible solution of the problem of uniting Germany; and he asserted that his conversations with the Russians had convinced him that he had their support. Therefore he was not afraid of Ackerman's attacks. He added, "The Russians are cleverer than these SED functionaries. They will wait until West Germany has a peace treaty, in the fall of 1951; then they will sign one the following spring with the German Democratic Republic, the text of which is already being prepared. After the treaty is in effect, the DDR will be incorporated into the eastern bloc of nations, and will have an army of its own without concealment. The Russians will not permit a German civil war to start, but will wait until the moment they think best and will then make an attack themselves. They will not allow the West to gain the initiative in World War III. The radical whisperings in the SED about barricades and street fighting have no relation to the real Russian planning for global action."
3. Dertinger stated that if he had any reason to believe his dismissal was imminent, he would flee at once, since the dismissal would mean the bankruptcy of the Christian Democratic policy of cooperation. He did not venture to predict what changes in the situation would be caused by "the definitive splitting of Germany next spring".

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4. Dr. Gerhard Reintanz, head of the legal department of the Foreign Ministry, stated on 24 July that he is not convinced that the Russians will permit the SED to dismiss Dertinger this fall.
5. Grotewohl is expected to deliver an important statement during the Youth Festival (5-19 August 1951). Part of his speech will be based on material dealing with the "meeting in Königstein on all-German elections".
6. The East German ambassadors to foreign countries are to report in Berlin during the week of 6 August. (The last similar meeting was held in March 1951.)
7. The Russians are still holding up approval of a passport law for East Germany, for unknown reasons.

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